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The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Letter dated 22 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to provide you with an update on the efforts undertaken by the Presidents of the Republics of El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua in relation to the Gulf of Fonseca as a zone of peace, sustainable development and security.

As you know, in the first tripartite declaration, the Managua Declaration, signed on 4 October 2007, the Presidents of the above-mentioned countries committed to jointly develop the Gulf of Fonseca (see A/62/486).

This was followed by two presidential summits on the same topic in 2012, the first held in San Salvador on 30 March (see annex) and the second in Managua on 4 December (see A/67/616), which made manifest our Presidents' political will to find ways to enhance trinational coordination in respect of the Gulf of Fonseca.

In the most recent joint presidential declaration, signed in the city of Managua on 4 December 2012, the Presidents reaffirmed their commitment to continue working together and assured the international community that all the issues relating to the Gulf of Fonseca would be addressed by the trinational commission they had established.

In addition, we wish to inform you that the next presidential summit, in which the discussion of issues concerning the Gulf of Fonseca will continue, will be held during the first week of April 2013.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42: "The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development", and as an official document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) María **Rubiales de Chamorro**
Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
Permanent Representative of Nicaragua

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Annex to the letter dated 22 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint communiqué of the trilateral meeting to renew efforts to implement the Managua Declaration: The Gulf of Fonseca, a zone of peace, sustainable development and security

We, the Presidents of the Republics of El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, meeting in the city of San Salvador, Republic of El Salvador, reiterate the strong commitment of our respective Governments to Central American integration, within the framework of the Central American Integration System, and to decisive actions to eradicate poverty, with the goal of further strengthening dialogue, cooperation and joint efforts undertaken by the three countries participating in the Managua Declaration: The Gulf of Fonseca, a zone of peace, sustainable development and security, signed in the city of Managua on 4 October 2007,

Aware of the importance of the Gulf of Fonseca, which is home to more than three million residents of the three coastal States,

Recalling that there is great potential in the Gulf area for the preservation of the ecosystem, the development of tourism that is competitive on an international scale, scientific research and the rational and sustainable exploitation of its living resources,

Taking into account the spirit of the Managua Declaration, which declares the Gulf of Fonseca a zone of peace, sustainable development and security, and reaffirming our commitment to give priority to dialogue and negotiation in the face of any conflict and to never resort to a military solution,

Agree:

1. That, in line with the Managua Declaration, the advancement of issues relating to the Gulf of Fonseca must continue, and therefore, the Presidential Commissions created to implement the agreements set out in the Declaration must be revitalized;

2. Based on the Agreement on the Union, Republic of El Salvador, of 2 April 2008, to ratify the contents of the Managua Declaration, recognizing it as the fundamental and basic legal framework that should be adhered to by the Trinational Working Group, a body made up of the Presidential Commissions of the three States, which are instructed to continue working in the same spirit of harmony they have sustained, in particular when finalizing the proposals of the established round tables;

3. That each shall designate, within the next 15 days, a personal delegate who will be responsible for managing trilateral, and in some cases, bilateral, relations, with the goal of developing basic guidelines and agreements, ad referendum, on the issues covered in the Managua Declaration of 4 October 2007 and in this joint communiqué of 30 March 2012, issued in this city, concerning the Gulf of Fonseca;

4. To request a report on and an evaluation of the Presidential Commissions, which were established in line with the Managua Declaration:

The Gulf of Fonseca, a zone of peace, sustainable development and security, in order to implement a sustainable development plan to benefit the coastal communities of the three countries on the Gulf of Fonseca;

5. To direct the national Presidential Commissions to follow up on completed tasks, with a view to supporting sustainable development in the Gulf of Fonseca and the fair and mutually supportive use of natural resources and fostering multi-destination tourism in the area, traditional fishing, aquaculture, and capacity-building and support for local governments in order to benefit communities;

6. To carry out joint programmes and projects aimed at mitigating, inter alia, the vulnerability of ecosystems and fish resources and the pillaging of the environment;

7. To continue implementing the memorandum of understanding entitled "Operating procedures between the naval forces of the Republics of El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua", signed in March 2002 in Corinto, Nicaragua;

8. To urge and direct the leaders of the naval forces, based on the above-mentioned memorandum of understanding, to seek greater levels of operational coordination in the Gulf of Fonseca and to submit regular reports on its implementation;

9. To direct the round table on defence and security to revise, update and finalize the memorandum of understanding;

10. To mandate the round table on economic and social development to use national and international experiences as a basis to explore economic development options in the Gulf of Fonseca;

11. To mandate the round table on development of infrastructure and ports to carry out tasks aimed at implementing the ferry project in the Gulf of Fonseca;

12. To mandate the various round tables to conduct research and submit a report on options for addressing questions of navigation, traffic, commerce, fishing, protection of the marine environment, preservation of natural resources and organizational matters in respect of the Gulf at the next trilateral meeting;

13. The Presidents of the Republics of El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua welcome the agreements and commitments reached and hope that they will facilitate the preservation of the Gulf of Fonseca as a zone of peace, sustainable development and security.

San Salvador, 30 March 2012.

(*Signed*) Mauricio **Funes**
President of the Republic of El Salvador

(*Signed*) Porfirio **Lobo Sosa**
President of the Republic of Honduras

(*Signed*) Daniel **Ortega Saavedra**
President of the Republic of Nicaragua